Brooklyn College
The City University of New York
English Department

English 3122:
Shakespeare I
TTH 2:15-3:30
3156 Boylan Hall

Professor Marie Rutkoski
email: MRutkoski@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Office Hours: T, Th 12:15-2:15, 3:30-4:30 (and by appointment), Boylan 2157

Objectives of the Course
This course will invite students to consider the relationship between history and literature; to focus on the life, career, and work of Shakespeare; to learn about the culture of the Renaissance; to practice the analysis of literary form and content; to discuss issues of gender, sexuality, and race in the historical context of the Renaissance; to and to practice effectively communicating (orally and in writing) a critical reaction to a text.

Assignments
Students will be responsible for one response paper (500 words), two essays (the first at 4-5 pages, the second at 6-8 pages), one in-class presentation (5 minutes maximum) that will count toward their participation grade, one midterm, and one final. The response paper and essays must be typed or computer-printed. All papers must engage in direct analysis of the text. The two essays must also engage with at least one secondary text. All sources must be cited properly. You will also be required to participate each week in online discussion on Blackboard.

*Written assignments must be submitted to me both in hard copy and by email (as a PDF attachment).

*****Online Course Requirement*****
This course is a hybrid course, which means that one hour occurs online. Each Friday you will be required to post online a response to a text on the syllabus the following Tuesday. In other words, you will be reading ahead for whatever text we are discussing the week following your post. Each Monday you must respond to two of your fellow students' posts. Online responses are worth 10% of your grade. Online responses will be posted in discussion forums on Blackboard.

Method of Assessment
<u>For class participation:</u>
Students will be evaluated on how they engage the text, each other, and the professor. Students are expected to read the texts and come to class prepared to discuss them. Please

remember that participation also includes listening to other students. This portion of a student's grade factors in attendance and one in-class presentation.
For the response paper and essays:
Students will be evaluated on the clarity of their writing, the attentiveness they have given to the texts, their ability to organize and synthesize information, the weight of the evidence they present, and the strength of their arguments.
For online responses:
Students should present what they find most compelling, strange, or intriguing about a text, and should seek above all to raise questions that they have about it.
For the midterm and final exam:
These exams will for the most part be designed to test that students have done the reading and have been attentive in class. The exams might include things that have been covered in class only.

Lateness
If you are late to class several times, this will negatively affect your attendance and participation grade. Three tardy arrivals will equal one absence. If you turn in a paper late, you will be downgraded half a grade for each day that it is late.

Absences
You are allowed two absences for whatever reason. Absences due to religious beliefs, illness (with doctor's note), or bereavement do not count toward that total. After two absences, your participation grade will be lowered by a half a grade for each extra day missed. I might give you a full absence if you are habitually late to class, leave early, or use your phone in class for reasons unrelated to our work.

Electronic Devices
I ask that you bring physical copies of texts to class. If you must use an electronic device to read the materials, please speak with me.

Please don't take notes on a computer, tablet, or phone. If you must, please speak with me.

If there is a medical, family, or emergency reason for you to have your phone on and be able to check a message, please talk with me before class. Otherwise, I will expect you to have your phones silent and put away at all times.

Grading
Attendance/Participation: 15%
Online Responses: 10%
Midterm 15%
Response paper: 5%
Essay 1: 15%
Essay 2: 20%
Final Exam: 20%

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of Shakespeare, eds. Stephen Greenblatt, et. al.

*I understand if you wish to use an alternative anthology or to acquire the plays singly. If so, please A) make certain that you acquire a hard copy (no e-books or online sources, unless you print them out) and B) make certain that the editions are numbered by acts, scenes AND lines (you will be required to use all three when you're citing sources). Please also be aware that I chose the Norton Shakespeare because it has excellent introductory matter. If you use an alternate text, it would be good if that edition also had introductions to the plays, and if it doesn't, I encourage you to read about the plays online.

Content Warnings (CW)
I try to give them where I can, but they are not exhaustive.

Course Description

We will consider several genres of Shakespeare's plays (comedies, tragedies, and histories) and some poetry as we discuss the history and culture of the English Renaissance and the following related topics: genre, artistic legacy, class, sexuality, race, and gender.

Schedule

T Aug 26
Introduction
[Francis Meres, from *Palladis Tamia: Wit's Treasury*]
[Preface to the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays]

Th Aug 28
The Taming of the Shrew, Acts 1-2
CW: This play contains gaslighting, emotional abuse, and issues of consent.

T Sept 2
The Taming of the Shrew, Acts 3-5

Th Sept 4

Titus Andronicus, Act 1
CW: this play contains rape, racism, dismemberment, and ableism. It is generally a very disturbing play.

*Due: Response paper (500 words). You may write on *Titus Andronicus* if you want, but my assumption is that you will write about *Taming of the Shrew*. Make certain you cite and analyze the text. Please watch *10 Things I Hate About You* (a retelling of the play) and choose one moment or aspect in the movie, or a choice the screenplay writers made, that helps you better understand the play. Your response paper doesn't have to have an argument, but it should be focused on a particular topic—gaslighting, for example, or the character of Bianca.

T Sept 9
Titus Andronicus, Acts 2-3

Th Sept 11
Titus Andronicus, Acts 4-5

T Sept 16
Romeo and Juliet, Acts 1-2

Th Sept 18
Romeo and Juliet, Acts 3-4

T Sept 23
NO CLASS

Th Sept 25
Romeo and Juliet, Act 5

T Sept 30
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Acts 1-3
CW: Issues of consent

Th Oct 2
NO CLASS

T Oct 7
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Acts 4-5

*DUE: First essay (4-6 p). You must use 1 secondary text.

Th Oct 9
Julius Caesar, Acts 1-2

T Oct 14

NO CLASS

Th Oct 16
Julius Caesar, Acts 3-5

T Oct 21
Sonnets, section TBA

Th Oct 23
Sonnets, section TBA

T October 28
MIDTERM

Th Oct 30
Sonnets, section TBA

T Nov 4
Hamlet, Act 1
CW: Suicide, drowning

Th Nov 6
Hamlet, Acts 2-3

T Nov 11
Hamlet, Act 4

Th Nov 13
Hamlet, Act 5

T Nov 18
The Merchant of Venice, Acts 1-2
CW: Anti-semitism, racism

Th Nov 20
The Merchant of Venice, Act 3-4

T Nov 25
The Merchant of Venice, Act 5

Th Nov 27
NO CLASS

T Dec 2
Othello Act 1
CW: racism, domestic abuse

Th Dec 4
Othello, Acts 2-3
*DUE Second Essay (6-8 p). You must use 3 secondary sources.

T Dec 9
Othello, Acts 4-5

Th Dec 11
Final exam review

Th Dec 18
FINAL EXAM: note the time difference!
1-3 PM